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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07 TRSE-00 OMB-01 COME-00 STR-04
CEA-01 /078 W
----------114130 282042Z /61
R 281725Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4898
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY SEOUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 18998

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: JA, FR
SUBJECT: FRANCO/JAPANESE MINISTERIAL CONVERSATIONS

1. ACCORDING TO QUAI DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR ASIA, LECLERCQ, LITTLE WAS ACCOMPLISHED IN THE JUNE 24 PERIODIC FRANCO/JAPANESE CONSULTATIONS AT THE FOREIGN MINISTER LEVEL. THE TALKS ARE GENERALLY SPACED OVER TWO DAYS, WHICH PROVIDES TIME FOR A GENERAL DISCUSSION OF WORLD, PARTICULARLY ASIAN, PROBLEMS. THIS TIME THE TALKS LASTED LESS THAN A DAY AND THE DISCUSSION OF TRADE POLICY KNOCKED OUT MOST GENERAL POLITICAL DISCUSSIONS. THE FRENCH HAD HOPED, FOR EXAMPLE, TO DISCUSS AT LEAST CHINA AND KOREA, BUT THEY WERE NOT EVEN RAISED. THE JAPANESE DID ASK FOR A RUNDOWN ON THE RECENT BREZHNEV VISIT, AND IN TURN THE FRENCH ASKED ABOUT THE STATE OF JAPANESE/SOVIET RELATIONS. THE FRENCH CONCLUDED THAT THERE WAS LITTLE NEW.

2. AS FOR THE TRADE DISCUSSIONS, THE FRENCH MADE THEIR USUAL COMPLAINTS ABOUT THE EXCESS OF JAPANESE EXPORTS TO FRANCE AND FRENCH DIFFICULTIES IN EXPORTING
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TO JAPAN. THE JAPANESE TRIED TO ARGUE THAT THE NUMEROUS JAPANESE TOURISTS BOUGHT MANY NECKTIES AND BOTTLES OF PERFUME WHICH SHOULD BE CONSIDERED FRENCH EXPORTS EVEN THOUGH THEY WOULD NOT FIGURE ON THE REGULAR TRADE STATISTICS. THE FRENCH POINTED OUT THAT THIS WAS AN INFINITESIMAL PROPORTION OF THE JAPANESE AUTOMOBILE AND CAMERA EXPORTS. THE DISCUSSIONS WITH

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THE JAPANESE WERE, AS USUAL, COMPLICATED BY THE DIFFERENT FIGURES WHICH THE JAPANESE ALWAYS SEEMED TO COME UP WITH. LECLERCQ CONCLUDED THAT WHILE THE TALKS WERE USEFUL, THE EXCHANGE WAS NOT SO COMPLETE OR IMPORTANT AS IN THE PAST.

3. THE FRENCH ALSO GOT THE IMPRESSION THAT THE JAPANESE FOREIGN MINISTER MIGHT NOT BE LONG IN HIS POSITION, A FACTOR WHICH FURTHER WEAKENED THE TALKS.
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